Date/Time: Friday, September 20, 2002; Meeting commenced approximately 9:40 a.m.

Address: Federal Communications Commission
Commission Meeting Room
445 – 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Attendees: See attached list

Convening of Meeting. Kathleen Wallman, Chairperson of the National Coordination Committee (NCC), called to order the seventeenth meeting of the NCC. She said two presentations would precede reports from the NCC's subcommittees.

Presentation by John Oblak. John Oblak, Chief Engineer at E.F. Johnson, Chairman of the Telecommunications Industries Association (TIA) TR-8.1 Subcommittee on Measurements, and Chairman of the TR-8 Engineering Committee for Private Radio, and representing TIA at the meeting, gave a PowerPoint presentation titled *TIA Wideband Data Standards Status Update* of TR-8 – an update of TIA progress in developing a wideband data standard. He said TIA discussed the physical layer standard and whether it would be scalable adaptive modulation (SAM) or IOTA. TIA, after reviewing the merits, agreed to recommend to the NCC the SAM system as the physical layer for the 700 MHz wideband interoperability channels and, Mr. Oblak made that recommendation to the NCC. He also reported that work on remaining specifications of ten documents for SAM have been approved for publication (*e.g.*, the SAM physical layer, the SAM channel access coding, the MAC RLA layer and the logic and control documents). The remaining documents will be approved by TIA and approved for publication by March, 2003. He indicated TIA believes the project essentially is on schedule. At the conclusion of Mr. Oblak's presentation, there were no questions.

Presentation by Sean O'Hara. Sean O'Hara, representing Syracuse Research Corporation, gave a PowerPoint presentation titled *Generation of Initial Pool Allotments for the 700 MHz Pre-Coordination Database – A Status Report, and Methodology Overview*. Mr. O'Hara reported on his work in developing a computer program that optimizes 700 MHz channel assignments nationwide. His presentation included varied topics, *e.g.*, the need for populating the NPSTC/NIJ 700 MHz pre-coordination database with pool allotments, the reason for doing so nationwide, a showing of allotments by county, assessing capacity requirements, use of county boundaries and a realistic model for interference and reuse, ground rules for pool allotments, service area and interference characterization, interference contours, *etc*. Mr. O'Hara explained that the computer program is intended as a tool for use by the 700 MHz Regional Planning Committees (RPCs) when responding to requests from users for 700 MHz channels. He indicated that the pool of assignments is just a guideline, that any application that might be presented to an RPC using the program is a guide, and that the RPC would have discretion whether to grant the assignment.

At the conclusion of Mr. O'Hara's presentation, there were questions and comments, collectively, from Joe Ross, representing the District of Columbia Office of the Chief Technology Officer, Robert Schlieman, representing New York State, Ronald Gillory of the Houston Police Department, Harlin McEwen, NCC Steering Committee member representing the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Robert Speidel, Michael Wilhelm, the Designated Federal Officer of the NCC, Ms. Wallman, Glen Nash, Chairman of the NCC's Technology Subcommittee, and Steve Devine, representing the State of Missouri.

Subcommittee Reports. Next, Ms. Wallman indicated readiness for the subcommittee reports.

Report of the Interoperability Subcommittee**.** David Buchanan, Acting Subcommittee Chair (Subcommittee Chair John Powell was absent) reported on the previous day's Subcommittee meeting and forwarded the following

recommendations to the Steering Committee (Steering Committee action is shown after each recommendation):

- *Recommendation*: That the Commission's rules contain alphanumeric designators for each interoperability channel, including those in the 700 MHz and 800 MHz bands and the bands below 512 MHz. For example, "1ETAC1A" would designate Emergency Medical Service tactical channel No. 1 operating in the direct mode on frequency 155.34 MHz. The Subcommittee envisions that these identifiers would appear on an alphanumeric readout on mobile and portable radios.
  Action: the Steering Committee tabled the recommendation pending comment on the designators from the user community.

- *Recommendation*: That the State Interoperability Executive Committees (SIECs) be responsible for administering all interoperability channels, not only the 700 MHz interoperability channels. There was consensus by the Steering Committee that this recommendation should be made to the FCC for inclusion in Commission rules.
  Action: More specific language will be drafted by the Subcommittee and submitted to the Steering Committee by email for final approval.

- *Recommendation*: That rules be adopted providing that analog radios used on the UHF and VHF interoperability channels be capable of operating with tone-coded squelch (CTCSS) at a frequency of 156.7 Hz.
  Action: By consensus, the Steering Committee approved this recommendation.

- *Recommendation*: That rules be adopted providing that digital radios operating on any of the interoperability channels be capable of operation using Network Access Code $61F.
  Action: By consensus, the Steering Committee approved this recommendation.

- *Recommendation*: That rules be adopted providing that a 700 MHz wideband data channel plan be developed that allows aggregation of specified 50 kHz channels into 100 kHz and 150 kHz groups, but that three 50 kHz channels should be designated, nationwide, as "50 kHz only" channels, *i.e.*, that these channels cannot be aggregated into larger channel blocks.
  Action: The Steering Committee tabled the recommendation.

Prior to Steering Committee action, there were, collectively, questions, responses, comments, clarifications, and discussions regarding one or more of the recommendations by: Harlin McEwen, Joe Ross, Dave Buchanan, Steve Devine, Ms. Wallman, Mr. Wilhelm, Robert Speidel, and Glen Nash.

Technology Subcommittee. Glen Nash, Subcommittee Chair, reported on the previous day's Subcommittee meeting and forwarded the following recommendations to the Steering Committee (Steering Committee action is shown after each recommendation):

- *Recommendation*: That the Steering Committee advise the Commission that SAM has been selected as the wideband data interoperability channel standard by the TIA and that work on the remaining specification documents is underway by TIA.
  Action: By consensus, the Steering Committee approved this recommendation.

- *Recommendation*: That the Commission adopt rules requiring that digital radios operating on any of the narrowband interoperability channels including channels below 512 MHz conform to the ANSI 102 suite of standards (Project 25).
  Action: By consensus, the Steering Committee approved this recommendation.

- *Recommendation*: That the NCC issue a recommendation, not to be reduced to a rule, stating: (1) that a minimum 700 MHz signal level of 40 dBµ should be maintained throughout a jurisdiction, but that 40

dBμ should not be exceeded more than three miles outside the jurisdiction; (2) that users may design systems for signal levels less than 40 dBμ, but that such systems will be more susceptible to interference on that account; and (3) that in areas in which interference is expected from out-of-band emissions from CMRS systems, it is advisable to design systems for a minimum signal level of 50 dBμ. Signal and interference levels should be computed using the procedures set out in TIA Technical Standards Bulletin 88. In all instances, interference into adjoining jurisdictions should be avoided by use of directional antennas, antenna down tilt, power reduction and other such means.

Action: Consensus was reached by the Steering Committee that such a recommendation should be published.

Prior to Steering Committee action, there were questions, answers, comments, clarifications, suggestions, and discussions, collectively, on one or more of the recommendations by: Robert Speidel, Glen Nash, Wayne Leland, representing Motorola and TIA, Steve Devine, Robert Schlieman, Ron Gillory, David Buchanan, representing County of San Bernardino and Region 5 – Southern California, Mr. Wilhelm, and Ms. Wallman.

Implementation Subcommittee. Ted Dempsey, Subcommittee Chair, reported that most of the Subcommittee's work has been completed for quite some time. He indicated that the Subcommittee has been keeping abreast of the Memorandum Opinion and Orders (*MO&Os*) of the Commission and the work of the Interoperability and Technologies Subcommittees. He said the Subcommittee recently updated its Regional Plan Guidelines (RP Guidelines) to conform with the Commission's *Fourth MO&O*. The RP Guidelines will be completed by the end of September and will be forwarded to NPSTC for posting on NPSTC's website. Further, the Subcommittee will act to ensure conformance with the latest Commission *MO&O*. He provided an update on the CAPRAD database, saying Tom Tolman's group informed the Subcommittee that it held ten training sessions; that it would schedule additional sessions every month, and that the RPCs are taking advantage of the sessions. Mr. Dempsey said the Subcommittee will continue monitoring the 50 dBμ and channel loading issues, and when consensus is reached on them, they will be incorporated into the RP Guidelines. At the conclusion of Mr. Dempsey's report, there were no questions.

Public Participation/Discussion. Ms. Wallman stated it was time for general comments from the Steering Committee or from the floor. Robert Schlieman said that, at yesterday's Implementation Subcommittee meeting, he and Steve Devine presented two proposals for state license channel sharing along State borders and will be putting them on the NPSTC website. He stated they are suggestions or guidelines for State consideration because there is a requirement in the Commission's *Third Report and Order* that States share mutually along the border.

Harlin McEwen commented that the Steering Committee was quite appreciative of the work over the last several years by the NCC's members, and that the Steering Committee recognizes all of the disciplines represented by the NCC members contributing to the process on behalf of the nationwide public safety community. Ms. Wallman concurred with Mr. McEwen's comments.

Joe Ross said Project 25 would impact negatively on District of Columbia interoperability with other regional municipalities because TIA 102 standards (Project 25) were unsuitable for interoperability communications. He also suggested that the 150 kHz maximum bandwidth for 700 MHz wideband channels was inadequate and that Commission rules should be amended to provide wider channels. He explained his positions, including his belief that there are more spectrally-efficient technologies than that proposed with SAM. Harlin McEwen asked Mr. Ross if he heard the discussions the previous day leading to today's decision regarding adoption of SAM and wondered if Mr. Ross knew something that others did not know. Mr. Ross stated he was not at the Subcommittee meetings. Ms. Wallman stated that the Project 25 ANSI 102 suite of standards has been chosen, and the FCC has already adopted rules which are being implemented by the RPCs, based on NCC work done the last few years. She suggested that Mr. Ross speak with Glen Nash to ensure full awareness of Mr. Ross's concerns regarding SAM.

Ted Dempsey, responding to Mr. Ross, said one of the responsibilities of the Implementation Subcommittee with respect to interoperability channels and availability of channels was to make plans very flexible, and those recommendations were made to the Steering Committee, which passed them on to the Commission. He stated

that producing the RP Guidelines was done to allow the RPCs to be as flexible as possible, and, while nationwide interoperability channels cannot be changed, it is possible to look at other solutions.

Robert Schlieman said the trunking channels are not required to be used with ANSI 102 but could be used with the older 3600 Hz or TPS control channel trunking system or other trunking systems. He said standards specified in Commission rules apply to conventional channel use and there are no restrictions regarding trunking on interoperability channels. On another matter, he expressed disappointment over what he termed Federal Government inability to plan meetings, saying he was appalled that there was another meeting, *i.e.*, Project SAFECOM, on interoperability occurring at the same time as today's NCC meeting, and the Federal Government must coordinate such meetings. He said there was low attendance at today's NCC meeting because many Federal personnel were at the Project SAFECOM meeting, the NCC meeting was scheduled first, and, thus, FEMA (heading Project SAFECOM) should pay more attention to the larger public safety interoperability picture.

Sean O'Hara addressed three matters. First, he suggested that Joe Ross speak to many of the people in attendance on a one-on-one basis regarding his concerns. He stated, "as you go wider band, coverage doesn't get better; it gets … a lot worse … because your noise aperture opens up considerably," and only "a little worse as you go to narrower band because the amplifier power goes down." Second, he said based on his long-time involvement, the SAM modulation was chosen for the wideband channels because it is the best one for meeting public safety requirements within the band. Third, he encouraged Mr. Ross to review the Commission's 4.9 GHz proceeding, FCC No. 00-32, because the functionality and feature set Mr. Ross has sought probably were well covered there. Mr. Ross said he reviewed the 4.9 GHz proceeding but, due to certain limiting characteristics of 4.9 GHz, it is not an acceptable alternative for wide-area coverage. Harlin McEwen encouraged Mr. Ross to get involved in the NCC process and challenged Mr. Ross's depiction of how 4.9 GHz works. Ms. Wallman also recommended the one-on-one process for further analyzing problems Mr. Ross discussed.

There being no further comments, Ms. Wallman then turned to discussion to the next NCC meeting date.

Future NCC Meetings. Ms. Wallman noted that the next meeting of the NCC is scheduled for November 21 and 22, 2002, at the headquarters of the Fire Department of New York; but she advised NCC members that this meeting was contingent on availability of funds for FCC staff to attend the meeting. The alternative of holding the meeting in Washington on November 21 and 22, 2002, was opposed by several members due to a conflict with the annual banquet of the Radio Club of America in New York on November 22. Given Ms. Wallman's comment that it was unlikely FCC staff would be restricted for travel, Mr. Wilhelm suggested that, if FCC staff could not go to New York, he would circulate alternative dates on the listserver to the Steering Committee and the General Membership for selection. There was agreement on this suggestion.

The following NCC meeting was scheduled for February 20 and 21, 2003, at FCC headquarters in Washington.

Close of Meeting. Ms. Wallman adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

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Prepared by: Bert Weintraub
Attorney Advisor
Public Safety & Private Wireless Division
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Federal Communications Commission

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Certified as to accuracy:

_____

      Kathleen Wallman

Date: _____

NCC ATTENDANCE ROSTER FOR September 20, 2002

Last Name	First Name	Meeting Date
Ashley	Don	September 20, 2002
Brown	Michael	September 20, 2002
Buchanan	David	September 20, 2002
Dempsey	Edward J.	September 20, 2002
Devine	Stephen	September 20, 2002
Eierman	David	September 20, 2002
Funk	David	September 20, 2002
Gallelli	Joe	September 20, 2002
Gillory	Ronald	September 20, 2002
Goodall	Tim	September 20, 2002
Gurss	Robert	September 20, 2002
Hall	Wray	September 20, 2002
Hanna	Joe	September 20, 2002
Haraseth	Ron	September 20, 2002
Hoffman	Charles	September 20, 2002
Ittner	Al	September 20, 2002
Jackson	Charles	September 20, 2002
Jouannelle	Guy	September 20, 2002
Knight	Curt	September 20, 2002
Martinez	Maribel	September 20, 2002
McEwen	Harlin	September 20, 2002
McGahey	Gene	September 20, 2002

Nash	Glen		September 20, 2002
Oblak	John		September 20, 2002
O'Hara	Sean T.		September 20, 2002
O'Shea	Michael K.		September 20, 2002
Palmer	Clark		September 20, 2002
Pickeral, J.D.	David		September 20, 2002
Proctor	Steven		September 20, 2002
Racek	Mark		September 20, 2002
Rinehart	Bette		September 20, 2002
Ross	Joe		September 20, 2002
Roy	Adam		September 20, 2002
Schlieman	Robert F.		September 20, 2002
Shahnami	Alireza (Ali)		September 20, 2002
Shalabi	Margaret		September 20, 2002
Smith	Douglas		September 20, 2002
Smith	Raymond R.		September 20, 2002
Speidel Esq.	Robert		September 20, 2002
Vaughan	Don		September 20, 2002
Wallman	Kathleen		September 20, 2002
Ward	Marilyn		September 20, 2002

Total for Attendance Roster: 42